

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /078 W

-----037518 131559Z /53

R 121655Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8059

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3188

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, APER, CS

SUBJECT: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

REF: STATE 148782

1. CONCUR FULLY WITH OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN REFTEL TO ORGANIZE OURSELVES FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE REGISTERED SOME NOTABLE SUCCESS IN THIS REGARD IN RECENT PAST, EMBASSY FEELS STRONGLY THAT MUCH MORE NEEDS TO AND CAN BE DONE. OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE, AND ESPECIALLY WELCOM, IS PARA 5 OF REFTEL. LEAD TIME, SUFFICIENT INFORMATION SERVED UP IN MOST UNDERSTANDABLE AND DIGESTABLE FORM FOR OURSELVES AS WELL AS FOR LOCAL DECISION MAKERS, AND ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF US POSITIONS ARE SINE QUA NON IN THIS ENTERPRISE. ALSO, IF URGENT DEMARCHES ARE TO BE MADE, IT WOULD ENSURE MORE UNIFORM PRESENTATIONS AND WOULD SAVE TIME, TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION IN SPANISH WHEN POSSIBLE.

2. EMBASSY FEELS STRONGLY THAT COSTA RICA CAN BE HIGHLY USEFUL TO US IN ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY. BOTH PRESIDENT ODUBER AND FONMIN FACIO ARE EXTREMELY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, AND ON

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MOST OF THEM THEY WANT COSTA RICA TO PLAY AN ACTIVE AND POSITIVE ROLE. THEY ARE ALSO FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE SPECIAL POSITION THAT COSTA RICA, A DEMOCRACY WITH A STRONG TRADITION OF CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT AND AN IMPECCABLE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD, ENJOYS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. THEY INTEND TO PLAY ON THIS THEME FULLY IN THIS YEAR'S UNGA.

3. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, COSTA RICA SHARES US VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, THE KOREAN AND PUERTO RICAN ISSUES AND OTHER KEY POLITICAL ISSUES, AND USUALLY TAKES CONSTRUCTIVE STANCES IN NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES. THROUGH A WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND PYM GOCR (I.E. FACIO AND ODUBER) WHICH EMPHASIZES INFORMATION SHARING, MORE THAN TOKEN ADVANCE CONSULTATION, AND, WHEN APPROPRIATE, JOINT SPONSORSHIP, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE US AND COSTA RICA CAN COOPERATE EFFECTIVELY IN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY.

4. THERE IS NO AREA WHICH BETTER ILLUSTRATES THE LATTER THAN HUMAN RIGHTS. COSTA RICA IS LOOKING FORWARD TORY WORKING WITH THE US AT THE UNGA TO ACHIEVE ITS LONG-HELD OBJECTIVE OF CREATING A UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. TIMELY SHARING OF INFORMATION AND JOINT PLANNING OF STRATEGY AND TACTICS WOULD HELP MAKE COSTA RICA AN ESPECIALLY VALUABLE ALLY ON THIS ISSUE. GOCR MIGHT WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS SUCH A JOINT EFFORT DURING POSSIBLE VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG.

5. IN UN BUDGET CONTROL, COSTA RICA HAS IN THE RECENT PAST VOICED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE US POSITION. AS A SMALL COUNTRY, THEY APPRECIATE NEED TO KEEP COST OF UN FINANCING - AND THEIR SHARE - DOWN. THEY AGREE WITH US

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VIEW RE THE DEPOLITICIZING OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND ARE MODERATE ON UN STRUCTURAL ISSUES. ON NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES, THEY WILL WANT TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE, AND WILL THOUGHTFULLY PLAY DEVIL'S ADVOCATE WITH THEIR THIRD WORLD ALLIES. WHEN CHIPS ARE DOWN, OF COURSE, THEY NORMALLY WILL CONTINUE TO LINE UP WITH THE THIRD WORLD MODERATES.

6. IN SUM, DEMOCRATIC COSTA RICA, WHICH IS RESPECTED IN THE THIRD WORLD FOR ITS INDEPENDENCE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, OFFERS THE US UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK TOWARD OUR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY OBJECTIVES. REAL ADVANCE CONSULTATION, TIMELY INFORMATION SHARING, HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION (THE TYPE AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S POSSIBLE TRIP WILL PROVIDE) AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS IN SPECIFIC ISSUES ARE THE KEYS TO SUCCESS IN THIS ENDEAVOR WITH COSTA RICA. WEISSMAN

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